

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

After entry of this Amendment, Claims 18, 20, 22-33, 35-39 and 41-55 are pending in the present application, with Claims 18, 33, and 43 being independent. Applicants have canceled Claims 19, 21, 34, and 40 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Applicants have amended Claims 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-30, 33, 35 and 37 herein. The amendments to those claims comprise rewriting previously allowable claims in independent form. The amendments also comprise changing occurrences of “client computer(s)” to “client database(s).” The disclosure of the original application supports those amendments at Figure 4A and page 8, lines 23-31. Finally, Applicants have added new Claims 41-55 to rewrite a previous allowable claim in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2004, the Examiner objected to Claims 21, 22, 29, 34 and 35 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed in more detail below, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter into the independent claims.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claims 18-20, 23-28, 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smiga et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,421,678. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected Claims 30-32 and 37-39 as being unpatentable over Smiga in view of Smith, U.S. Patent No. 5,715,454. Finally, the examiner rejected Claim 40 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants submit that the amendments herein overcome the Examiner's rejections by incorporating allowable subject matter into independent Claims 18 and 33.

Response to the Office Action

Claims 18, 20, and 22-32

Applicants have amended independent Claim 18 to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in dependent Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claim 18 and Claims 20 and 22-32 depending therefrom are allowable because the base claim (independent Claim 18) is patentable over the documents cited by the Examiner. Applicants have canceled Claims 19 and 21 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

Claims 33, 35-39, 41, and 42

Applicants have amended independent Claim 33 to include the allowable subject matter previously recited in dependent Claim 34. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 33 and

Claims 35-39, 41, and 42 depending therefrom are allowable because the base claim (independent Claim 33) is patentable over the documents cited by the Examiner. Applicants have canceled Claim 34 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

New Claims 43-55

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that original Claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New independent Claim 43 corresponds to the subject matter of original claim 29 and its intervening base claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 43 and Claims 44-55 depending therefrom are allowable because the base claim (independent Claim 43) is patentable over the documents cited by the Examiner.

Claim 40

Applicants have canceled Claim 40 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

Applicants are not conceding that the rejections presented in the Office Action are accurate or correct. Applicants present the claim amendments and cancellations herein to allow a patent to issue for the subject matter found allowable by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims in a continuation application and to submit remarks in response to the Examiner's claim rejections in such a continuation application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the foregoing as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2004. Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action. If any issues exist that can be resolved with an Examiner's Amendment or a telephone conference, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.572.2809.

Respectfully submitted,



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